

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03837 031449Z

50

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 126349

R 031400Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECNAV WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7767

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

USDAO/CAIRO EGYPT

DIA WASHDC

USDAO/LONDON UK

USDAO ROME IT

USDAO/TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3837

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SECNAV), SA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

1. VISIT OF SECNAV MOST WELCOME BUT PROPOSED TIMING WOULD BE DIFFICULT. VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MIDDLE OF THE MOSLEM MONTH OF FASTING, RAMADAN, WHICH LASTS FROM SEPT 17TH TO OCT 15TH. DURING RAMADAN, MOST SAUDI OFFICIALS OBSERVE THE FAST DURING DAYLIGHT, WITH LITTLE TIME SPENT AT THE OFFICE DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS, AND ALL BUT ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY IS SUSPENDED.

2. CALLS ON ROYAL FAMILY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE DURING RAMADAN. CALLS ON US OFFICES IN DHAHRAN, RIYADH AND JIDDA OF COURSE COULD BE ARRANGED.

3. UNLESS SCHEDULE IS IMMUTABLE, WE URGE THAT VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL NOV 1ST, BUT NOT AFTER DECEMBER 10TH WHEN PILGRIMAGE (HAJ) SEASON WILL BE IN FULL SWING.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03837 031449Z

4. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR DISCOURAGING AS WE FEEL THE SAUDI TRAVEL PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT AND WE WANT TO SEE SECRETARY MIDDENDORF VISIT US. OUR ONLY RESERVATION IS THE TIMING. SHOULD THIS BE THE ONLY PERIOD AVAILABLE THE SECRETARY SHOULD REALIZE THAT HIS VISIT WILL BE CON-
STRICTED BY THE ABOVE BUT WOULD STILL BE QUITE USEFUL.
BIRD

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NNN

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To: SECNAV WASHDC
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